

AED's HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care,  
and Support Programs

# Domestic

2008



AED •

Center on AIDS & Community Health



## AIDS is a Critical Focus of our Mission

Founded in 1961, the **Academy for Educational Development (AED)** is a nonprofit organization working globally to improve health, education, and economic opportunity—the foundation of thriving societies. With a global staff of more than 2,000 focusing on the underserved, AED implements more than 250 programs serving people in all 50 U.S. states and more than 150 countries.

For more than 20 years, AED has worked globally on HIV/AIDS prevention and care. We know that our mission—from better education to healthier people to cleaner environments—cannot be realized while AIDS continues to decimate communities across the world. That is why AED has been engaged in the fight against AIDS since our first major global HIV/AIDS program (AIDSCOM) in the mid 1980s.

With efforts that span the globe, AED has a strong history and large arsenal of tools and lessons that make us a unique partner in working to create a world without AIDS. Today, AED implements **HIV/AIDS-related programs** in 25 countries that:

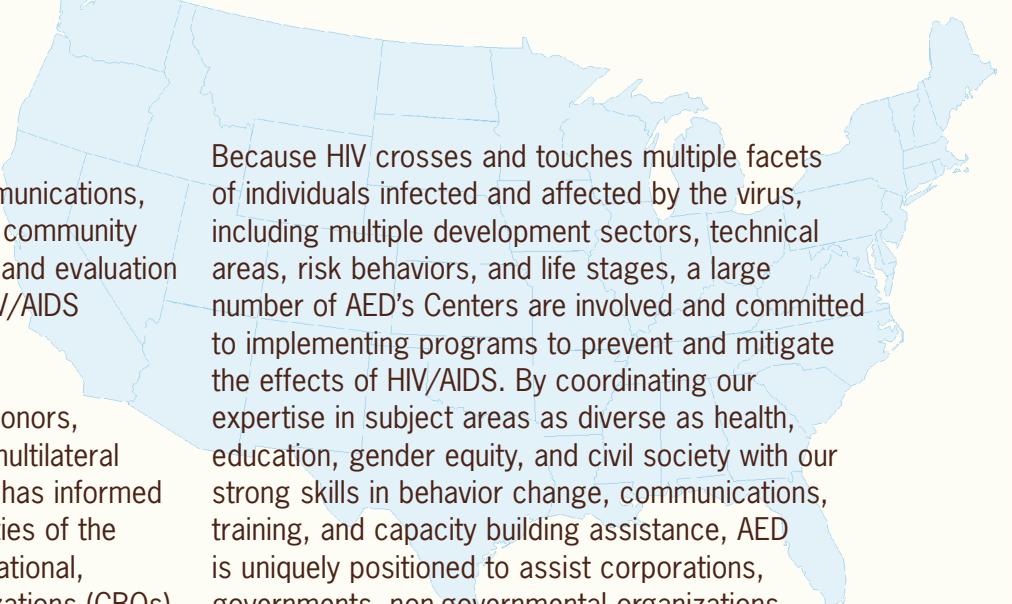
- Reduce stigma and discrimination,
- Promote prevention for people living with AIDS/AIDS (PLWHA),
- Provide care for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC),
- Reduce transmission of HIV through workplace education and prevention efforts,
- Prevention mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), and
- Diffuse effective behavioral and biomedical interventions.

## A COMMITTED PARTNER

AED experts in behavior change, communications, capacity building, policy development, community and school mobilization, and research and evaluation are committed to ending the global HIV/AIDS pandemic.

AED's experience working with many donors, including U.S. government agencies, multilateral banks, foundations, and corporations, has informed our approach in dealing with complexities of the epidemic. Our partnerships with international, national, and community-based organizations (CBOs) have helped reinforce that we must all work together to combat AIDS.

AED is dedicated to harnessing the full strengths of the organization to responding to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. AED has organized 26 centers of excellence that focus on building skills and knowledge to help people improve their lives in the United States and throughout the world. The AED Center on AIDS & Community Health (COACH) is charged with working in collaboration across AED program groups and centers to lead major domestic and global HIV/AIDS programs and development activities, and to support and coordinate AIDS-related programming across AED.



Because HIV crosses and touches multiple facets of individuals infected and affected by the virus, including multiple development sectors, technical areas, risk behaviors, and life stages, a large number of AED's Centers are involved and committed to implementing programs to prevent and mitigate the effects of HIV/AIDS. By coordinating our expertise in subject areas as diverse as health, education, gender equity, and civil society with our strong skills in behavior change, communications, training, and capacity building assistance, AED is uniquely positioned to assist corporations, governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and communities in the fight against AIDS.

## THE AED CENTER ON AIDS & COMMUNITY HEALTH

"We believe that hands-on community involvement results in more effective, practical, accessible, and sustainable programs; which translate into better health."

The AED Center on AIDS & Community Health (COACH) helps communities create innovative programs and policies to improve public health. COACH's mission is to engage communities in developing and applying creative and practical science-based program and policy strategies to resolve complex public health issues—with a major focus on domestic and international HIV/AIDS and sexually-transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, and hepatitis.

Founded in 1997, from an initial core of five staff, the Center has grown into a diverse (racial, ethnic, gender, and serostatus) team with over 50 staff in Washington, D.C., New York, and Los Angeles; and more than 140 field staff in 17 countries.

COACH provides technical support to community-based and non-governmental organizations; Ministerial Agencies (including Ministries of Health, Education, and Labor); regional, state, and local health departments and entities; philanthropic donors; corporations; private-sector enterprises; and community groups in four core areas: Prevention; Care and Treatment; Vaccine Research Education; and Capacity Building, Research, and Evaluation.

COACH implements demonstration and full-scale prevention and care programs, and provides training, technical assistance, and consultation on comprehensive HIV/AIDS programming, including:

- Anti-stigma and discrimination
- Capacity building (including programmatic, organizational development, and program research and evaluation)
- Community planning and mobilization

- Delivery of care and support and treatment services
- Diffusion of evidence-based HIV prevention interventions
- Linkage & integration with STD and viral hepatitis prevention & treatment
- Monitoring and evaluation, and research
- Policy development and implementation
- Program strategies for most-at-risk populations, including prevention with HIV positives
- Support for orphans and vulnerable children
- Workplace interventions
- Vaccine research education

AED's dedication to the fight against HIV/AIDS grows each year. Our results come from experience across the globe. Our portfolio is rich with examples of success. Through action, dialogue, publications, and diffusion of results, we share our lessons and strive to engage others in future efforts to mitigate the AIDS pandemic. On the following pages, you will find descriptions of AED's HIV/AIDS programs currently underway in the United States.



# Prevention



## **Development of an HIV Testing Campaign for African American Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)**

AED is supporting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop an HIV testing campaign focusing on African American MSM. Specifically, AED supports the convening of an External Consultation Work Group comprised of HIV/AIDS experts, researchers and community leaders. The goals of the project include: gaining insights into the target audience's knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about HIV testing, and gathering information about risk reduction from the community; identifying potential motivators and barriers to HIV testing; gathering best practices, insights into HIV/AIDS-related issues and general factors and influences affecting MSM; sharing input early in the campaign's development to identify strengths and areas for improvement; and identifying synergies with potential partners and leveraging pre-existing efforts with CDC's HIV Testing Campaign. [Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention]

## **Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Interventions (DEBI)**

The DEBI project is designed to diffuse more than 14 evidence-based, community-and group-level HIV prevention interventions to community-based service providers and state and local health departments. The goal is to enhance the capacity of service providers to implement effective interventions at the state and local levels, to reduce the spread of HIV and STDs, and to promote healthy behaviors. CDC and AED partner with intervention researchers and developers, the National Network of STD/HIV Prevention Training Centers, Capacity Building Assistance (CBA) providers, and the American Psychological Association's Behavioral and Social Scientist Volunteers program (BSSV) to make the DEBI project a success. AED has served as the Training Coordination Center for the DEBI project since the CDC began funding the project in 2001. (for more information, go to [www.effectiveinterventions.org](http://www.effectiveinterventions.org)). [Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention]

## **National HIV/AIDS Anti-stigma Initiative**

The Initiative seeks to reduce HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination to protect the human and social assets of those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS through researching and funding promising approaches that can be readily applied by other national and community organizations. Core Initiative activities include: (1) assisting community-based and national organizations in the development of innovative and replicable anti-stigma interventions; (2) supporting research and information dissemination and, (3) providing technical assistance for the Initiative's anti-stigma activities. The Initiative's website, [www.hivaidsstigma.org](http://www.hivaidsstigma.org), serves as a clearinghouse for research, tools, and resources. [Funded by the Ford Foundation]



# Care & Treatment

## **Increasing Skills to Identify Needs and Capacity (INSINC)**

The project is designed to provide assistance to Ryan White Program grantees to address "unmet need" in geographic areas where there are high numbers of HIV-positive individuals. "Unmet need" is defined as the need for regular HIV primary health care for individuals living with HIV who are aware of their status, but are not receiving care. The goals of the project are to: (1) increase the ability of Ryan White Program grantees to assess capacity and infrastructure needs in underserved communities, and (2) increase the ability Ryan White Program grantees, planning bodies, and providers to identify and address the barriers that prohibit access to and retention in care for substance users and recently-released inmates. The INSINC project provides training services in two core areas: Capacity and Infrastructure Assessment Training, and HIV Service Integration for Special Populations. [Funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, HIV/AIDS Bureau]

### **Supporting Networks of HIV Care by Enhancing Primary Medical Care (SNHC by EPMC)**

The SNHC by EPMC project is a national technical assistance and capacity building project. The project is designed to develop, improve, and expand comprehensive HIV primary medical care and treatment service delivery in racial/ethnic minority communities severely impacted by HIV/AIDS by providing intensive capacity building, technical assistance, and regional meetings to primary medical care sites. AED, a subcontractor to the CAEAR Foundation, is responsible for intensive capacity building, which includes medical quality assurance, organizational development, and sub-grant management. [Funded by the CAEAR Foundation, via funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration, HIV/AIDS Bureau]

### **Strengthening Consumer Involvement and Leadership (SCILS) Project**

The federal Ryan White Program was enacted to improve the quality and availability of care and support services for individuals and families with HIV and requires the participation of PLWHA in local planning and decision making regarding how best to meet local needs. The SCILS project was created to increase the involvement of PLWHA in Ryan White Program planning activities throughout the United States. The project developed two different curricula and provides training and technical assistance to PLWHA and HIV care planning groups. In addition to the training, AED provides ongoing support and technical assistance to training participants to assist them in meeting their personal goals related to increased involvement in HIV planning activities. Graduates of the Leadership in Advocacy and Planning (LEAP) training are invited to join a listserv that provides information of interest to PLWHA on additional training, medical and care updates, conferences, etc. The SCILS Project maintains contact with each LEAP graduate to provide ongoing technical assistance. [Funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, HIV/AIDS Bureau]

# Vaccine Research Education



## **NIAID HIV Vaccine Research Education Initiative (NHVREI)**

The goal of NHVREI is to create support for HIV vaccine research among U.S. populations most affected by HIV/AIDS, in particular African Americans/Blacks, Hispanics/Latinos, MSM, women, and young adults. As presented in the NHVREI Strategic Framework, this goal is most likely to be achieved through a multi-level intervention addressing individuals, their social networks, and community social norms regarding participating in medical research and specifically in HIV-vaccine clinical trials. AED and its partner GYMR, a nationally recognized communications firm specializing in health and social issues, implement the project through national and local partners, media/message dissemination, and communications/issues monitoring. [Funded by the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Division of AIDS]





# Capacity Building, Research & Evaluation

## **Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) Community Health Summit**

For more than ten years, AED has implemented the Community Health Summit to promote knowledge-sharing and skills-building among community-based health service providers in AECF Making Connections neighborhoods and AECF health grantees across the country. AED provides strategic planning, coordination, hosting, tailored capacity-building sessions, and evaluation to support grantees in maximizing their ability to care for and improve health outcomes for low-income, minority, immigrant, and under-served families. In addition, AED provides AECF grantees peer training, technical assistance, and program development related to neighborhood approaches to community health. [Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation]

## **Clinical Education Initiative: Resource, Referral, and Evaluation Center (2008-2013)**

The goals of the Resource, Referral, and Evaluation Center— one of five centers in the New York AIDS Institute’s Clinical Education Initiative (CEI)—are to: (1) improve the ability of community-based clinical providers to access and utilize training/educational opportunities in New York State; and (2) increase learning related to effective CEI program processes, outcomes, and impacts of clinical education. Key activities include: (1) maintaining a toll-free phone line

and e-mail address to provide timely responses to information requests; (2) conducting further outreach to community-based providers and agencies via the CEI website, a provider profile push messaging system, and conference exhibit booths; (3) soliciting and managing education requests and collaborating with other CEI centers to respond to requests; (4) developing appropriate health agency-based staff education plans; (5) developing and disseminating an AIDS Clinical Education Resource Guide; (6) developing a CEI program logic model and evaluation framework; (7) working collaboratively with other CEI centers to develop standardized CEI performance measures, data collection instruments and protocols for data submission; and (7) developing and managing a web-based data reporting system for all CEI centers as well as regular client reporting of evaluation findings. [Funded by the New York AIDS Institute]

### **The Evaluation of the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) National Quality Center (NQC)**

The goal of NQC is to provide technical assistance, training, and other activities to grantees and providers funded under the Ryan White Program (formerly the Ryan White CARE Act). The vision of the evaluation is to provide regular, evidence-based feedback to the implementers of the NQC (the New York State AIDS Institute) to effectively design NQC services, improve implementation of these services, and measure the

impact of services on grantees' design and delivery of quality improvement programs. [Funded by the New York AIDS Institute via funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration, HIV/AIDS Bureau]

### **National Evaluation of ConnectHIV (Pfizer Project)**

ConnectHIV is designed to support the integration of HIV prevention, care, and treatment efforts in ten states with the greatest need in the United States. Through ConnectHIV, the Pfizer Foundation is providing funding, technical assistance, and networking resources to 20 AIDS Service Organizations. ConnectHIV implements and tests the effectiveness of a comprehensive approach to HIV prevention and care services for PLWHA and those at high risk, and supports the development of an effective continuum of care to ensure the best use of resources and sharing of best practices in HIV prevention. Made possible by a strategic partnership between the Pfizer Foundation, AED, and the Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health, ConnectHIV includes a significant evaluation component to measure the impact of the new initiative and to share lessons learned and best practices with the HIV/AIDS field, as well as an innovative cost-effectiveness study. AED has lead responsibility for the national cross-site evaluation-evaluating behavior change and determinants of behaviors change. [Funded by the Pfizer Foundation]

*AED welcomes opportunities to work with new partners and donors. For more information on how we can collaborate or help your organization respond to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, please contact:*

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